

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004599/25
to the Commission
Leire Pajín (S&D), Hana Jalloul Muro (S&D)
(18 November 2025)**

Subject: EU humanitarian action to address escalating humanitarian needs in Gaza during the rainfall season

Following the onset of heavy winter rainfall in Gaza, aid agencies report that more than a quarter of a million families lack adequate shelter, and remain exposed to flooding and sewage-contaminated water. More than two thirds of children in Gaza are living in tents that are falling apart after two years of bombardment and displacement. Displacement on a massive scale, combined with widespread destruction of housing, has left most families reliant on makeshift coverings that cannot withstand the seasonal storms. Health conditions are rapidly deteriorating, with 93% of the enclave's 135 000 tents now uninhabitable. Meanwhile, persistent restrictions by the Israeli Government continue to block around 75% of aid from entering Gaza, leaving tens of thousands of essential items blocked outside the Gaza Strip.

What concrete measures is the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Commission taking, in cooperation with the Member States, to secure the predictable, rapid and unhindered entry of shelter materials, including tents, poles and other winter-response items, into Gaza during the current rainfall season?

Submitted: 18.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(6 March 2026)**

The Commission recognises that the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains extremely grave, with the scale of civilian suffering deeply concerning. Humanitarian operations continue to face significant constraints, and limited access for aid, linked also to the dual use issue, is exacerbating the impact of winter conditions.

Under international humanitarian law, civilians must have access to humanitarian assistance and to the basic services necessary for their survival.

While some aid is entering Gaza, current levels remain insufficient to meet needs. The EU has consistently called on Israel to allow unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza, in accordance with international humanitarian law and called, in particular, for essential items, such as shelter, winterisation supplies and medical items, to be allowed into Gaza ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission will continue providing humanitarian support, prioritising life-saving assistance, protection, and access to essential services, including shelter.

The 2026 allocation of humanitarian funding aims to enable the UN, its agencies, and humanitarian partners including international non-governmental organisations, the Red Cross Movement and the International Committee of the Red Cross to operate independently, impartially, in accordance with humanitarian principles.

In parallel, the Commission is working closely with humanitarian partners on the ground to identify contingency plans in response to current access restrictions and to support efforts to reach people in need as effectively as possible.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-position-situation-middle-east>.